

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Perishable Cargo Complex at Hyderabad

*545. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Perishable Cargo Complex (new) at Hyderabad Airport has been completed and the Complex is ready for handing over to the Airports Authority of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the APSTC had requested for the entrustment of the management of Perishable Cargo Complex to APSTC by the AAI; and

(d) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) A Centre for Perishable Export Cargo has been set up at Hyderabad Airport by Airports Authority of India (AAI) with technical and financial assistance from Agricultural and Processed Foods Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) with a capacity of 17 metric tonnes of perishable cargo at a time.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In accordance with the Government policy to encourage private participation in airport handling, AAI had invited open tenders for entrusting operation, management and maintenance of this facility. Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation (APSTC), who was one of the bidders, has emerged as the successful tenderer. A letter of intent has already been issued by AAI to APSTC on 12.4.2001.

Filling-up of vacant posts of Phone Mechanics in BSNL

†*546. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of phone mechanics vacant in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited as on 31st March, 2001;

(b) the number of such employees who have completed the

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training for the post of Phone Mechanic but have not been given appointment and pay scale till date; and

(c) by when Government would give appointment and pay scale to those phone mechanics who have completed their training?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The number of vacant posts of Phone Mechanic (now re-designated as Telecom Mechanic) is 6873. The number of such employees who are trained and waiting for their appointment as Phone Mechanic are 34553.

(c) It is planned to fill up the vacant posts progressively during the current financial year. The balance-trained personnel would be adjusted as and when new vacancies arise. In the interim, arrangement already exists for payment of Rs.400/- on completion of six months after passing the post training examination, Rs.600/- on completion of one year and Rs.1000/- on completion of each subsequent year of waiting.

Conditions for Granting Licences

*547. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to impose stringent conditions for granting licences to companies which want to start new airlines in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of conditions laid down by Government in this regard alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) In 1997, policy on domestic air transport services was approved by the Government. In accordance with this policy, barriers to entry and exit from the domestic air transport services sector have been removed and there is only a pre-entry scrutiny of applications to verify the financial soundness, maintenance, security and safety aspects of operations and human resources development proposed to be undertaken by the applicant airline. Further, to eliminate non-serious entrepreneurs and to achieve economics of scale, the minimum fleet size for a scheduled operator has been fixed at 5 aircraft and the minimum amount of the